

I claim:

- 1. (Currently amended)** A method of treating infectious diseases caused by drug-resistant strains of bacteria in a human or an animal host comprising:
Administration to the area of disease a suitable carrier containing an antibacterial agent obtainable from pepper, or an equivalent in a therapeutically effective concentration.
- 2. (Withdrawn)** A method of treating superficial bacterial infections in a human or an animal host comprising:
Administration to the area of disease a suitable carrier containing an antibacterial agent obtainable from pepper, or an equivalent in a therapeutically effective concentration.
- 3. (Withdrawn)** A method of treating internal bacterial infections in a human or an animal host comprising:
Administration to the area of disease a suitable carrier containing an antibacterial agent obtainable from pepper, or an equivalent in a therapeutically effective concentration.
- 4. (Currently amended)** A method of treating bacterial infections in a human or an animal host comprising:
Administration to the area of disease a suitable carrier containing an antibacterial phytoalexin obtainable from pepper, or an equivalent in a therapeutically effective concentration.
- 5. (Currently amended)** A method of treating cellulitis in a human or an animal host comprising:
Administration to the area of disease a suitable carrier containing an antibacterial agent obtainable from pepper, or an equivalent in a therapeutically effective concentration.
- 6. (Previously amended, one time)** The method of claim 5, wherein the disease [includes] is necrotizing fasciitis (flesh eating disease).
- 7. (Currently amended)** A method of treating infectious diseases caused by *Staphylococcus* bacteria in a human or an animal host comprising:
Administration to the area of disease a suitable carrier containing an antibacterial agent obtainable from solvent extraction of a component of a pepper plant, or an equivalent in a therapeutically effective concentration.

8. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein the bacteria is *Staphylococcus aureus*.
9. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein the *Staphylococcus* bacteria is drug resistant.
10. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein the infectious disease is classified as a superficial infection.
11. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein the infectious disease is classified as internal or systemic infection.
12. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein the disease is cellulitis.
13. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said administration is topical.
14. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said administration is internal or systemic.
15. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said solvent is alcohol.
16. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said solvent is acetone.
17. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said pepper is black pepper.
18. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said pepper is capsicum pepper.
19. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said pepper is red pepper.
20. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said pepper is paprika.
21. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein said equivalent is

ginger.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein said equivalent is turmeric.